

2011 FISHING FORECAST AND TIPS



Welcome to the 2011 Fishing Forecast for Kentucky's major fisheries. The forecast is based on 2010 fish population surveys, creel surveys, fish stockings, and historical knowledge of the fisheries. This handout is designed to assist anglers in planning their fishing trips and improving their fishing success. Additional fishing information is available from the Department's website at fw.ky.gov or by obtaining copies of the 2011 Sport Fishing and Boating Guide available at most sporting goods stores. The Kentucky Trout Waters brochure is contained in the 2011 Fishing and Boating Guide.

To locate fishing access sites in Kentucky, visit our website and click on "Fishing & Boating", then "Where to Fish", and finally "Find a Place to Fish". You will be able to search for your favorite water bodies and get directions to all major boat launches and access sites.

Opening day of the 2011 fishing season starts March 1 with the new year's license, so take a trip to your local sporting good store, get online at fw.ky.gov, or call 1-877-598-2401 to purchase your 2011 fishing license.

The Fishing Forecast was partially financed through funds provided by your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels under the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program.



New and Expanding Fisheries in 2011

- Sauger have been stocked into the Barren, Salt and Green rivers in order to expand those fisheries.
- White crappie have been stocked into Taylorsville, Carr Creek and Kentucky lakes to bolster poor year classes in those lakes.
- White bass have been stocked in Green River Lake to re-establish the population which declined dramatically over the past several years.
- Stockings continue for muskie, sauger, white bass and hybrid striped bass in the Kentucky River. Fishable populations of sauger and white bass have already appeared.
- Several small lakes across the state have been added to our trout and catfish stocking program. Please see our web page (fw.ky.gov) for more information about the FINS program and associated stockings.

Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

Make sure you check out the new Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet located at the end of this publication. For those looking for a quick answer to where the best fishing can be found for each species, the Cheat Sheet is your guide. The Cheat Sheet lets you know which lakes are forecasted to provide good to excellent fishing for each of your favorite fish species. Just look up the species you are interested in and then see which lakes have a check mark next to them. These are the lakes which will provide the best chance for a memorable fishing trip for that species. The Cheat Sheet is located on two pages, so if you don't see the species you are interested in on the first page; make sure to check the following page.

New Up-and-Comers

Several lakes and rivers have shown improvements in their fisheries in the last year. You might try and get in on the action at the following water bodies:

- Hybrid striped bass in the Barren River.
- Bluegill at Buckhorn Lake (Leslie and Perry counties).
- Bluegill at Cedar Creek Lake (Lincoln County).
- White bass at Lake Cumberland (Russell, Wayne, Clinton and Pulaski counties).
- Channel catfish at Dewey Lake (Floyd County).
- Muskie in pools 6-14 of the Kentucky River.
- Spotted bass and white bass at Lake Linville (Rockcastle County).
- Bluegill at Mauzy Lake (Union County, Higginson-Henry WMA).
- Largemouth bass at Mill Creek Lake (Powell and Wolfe counties–Natural Bridge State Park).
- Largemouth bass at Taylorsville Lake (Spencer, Anderson and Nelson counties).
- Rainbow trout at Three Springs Lake (Warren County).
- Bluegill at Yatesville Lake (Lawrence County).

Late Winter/Early Spring Fishing Frenzy

As you approach the end of the winter months in anticipation of beginning a new year of fishing, put your new fishing license to good use by trying a few early spring fishing "hot spots". In March, as water temperatures begin to rise into the 50's and the winter doldrums are nearing their end, fish activity will usually begin in the smaller waters bodies such as farm ponds and public lakes as they usually warm sooner than reservoirs. But, do not forget to take advantage of trout waters such as seasonal catch-and-release trout streams, lakes stocked with trout in winter months, community lakes stocked with trout and the Cumberland River (below Lake Cumberland). Late winter and early spring may be the best times of the year to catch that trophy fish that you have always been after.

During the end of winter and early spring, largemouth bass, especially large females, begin to feed and are at their heaviest weight for the entire year. Farm ponds and public lakes are prime spots for early largemouth bass fishing. A few of the best lakes for catching a trophy bass are Barkley, Kentucky, Malone, Kincaid, Greenbo, Wood Creek, and Guist Creek lakes. Other lakes that offer excellent early bass fishing are Barren, Beshear, Herrington, Mauzy, Green River and Cedar Creek lakes in west/central Kentucky and Cave Run, Dewey and Fishtrap lakes in eastern Kentucky.

If you are after smallmouth bass, head to Green River, Kentucky, Cumberland, Laurel River, Dale Hollow and Fishtrap lakes for a good chance at catching the smallmouth bass of a lifetime. Streams also provide excellent fishing for smallmouth bass as adult fish begin to move from over-winter habitat in larger streams and rivers to spawning areas in smaller tributary streams. Very good smallmouth bass fishing can be found in streams during the early spring throughout central and eastern Kentucky. Some of the best opportunities can be found in Elkhorn Creek, South Fork Licking River, and several upper Kentucky River and Green River tributaries.

Slab crappie are ready to be caught, beginning in late winter, at most reservoirs in central and western Kentucky. Catches of crappie over 12 inches are not uncommon at Barkley and Kentucky lakes during this time. Recent research has shown crappie moving to shallow water well before the spawning season in early March, so start early for these fish. Anglers targeting black crappie on Kentucky and Barkley lakes should have good success. Other good bets include Herrington, Nolin, and Buckhorn lakes, as well as the Kentucky River.

Excellent white bass fishing can be found during the early spring in headwater streams and rivers of our reservoirs such as Barkley, Cave Run, Nolin River, Herrington and Taylorsville lakes. Also try the Kentucky, Green and Ohio rivers for white bass. During late winter, sauger and walleye fishing are reaching their peak in tailwaters below dams, especially the Ohio and lower Kentucky, Cumberland and Tennessee rivers. Excellent walleye fisheries can also be found in Cumberland, Laurel River and Carr Creek lakes. If you are interested in muskie, they can usually be found moving to shallow shoreline structure and headwater areas in search of warmer water at Cave Run, Green, and Buckhorn lakes. Remember, a 36-inch minimum size limit is in effect for muskie at these three reservoirs. Try these late winter and early spring "hot spots". Not only will they cure your cabin fever, but you might catch the fish of your lifetime.

2011 FISHING FORECAST

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

The fishing forecast is based on 2010 fish population surveys, planned fish stockings, and projections for 2011.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BARKLEY LAKE and TAILWATER	45,600 acres	(Trigg, Lyon and Livingston counties)
Blue catfish	Good	Good numbers of 10-20 pounders with the occasional 50+ pounder. Best fishing is during late spring and summer along deep river channels. Look for good flow in the lake for best fishing conditions. Blue catfish can be caught year-round in the tailwater. Best bait is cut shad or skipjack herring.
Bluegill	Excellent	Increasing numbers of fish up to 9 inches; the best fishing comes in May on sand or gravel spawning beds. Crickets and worms under corks during the spawn is a good method. Fish move deeper as the water warms in summer.
Channel catfish	Good	Best fishing is during May along rocky banks and during summer along the main river channel and adjacent flats. Try stink bait in shallow water in the spring. Channel catfish can also be caught year-round in the tailwater.
Crappie	Good	Numbers are down, but fishing reports are still positive. Anglers may have to work a bit harder, but successful fishing days are still to be found. Many fishermen are changing tactics, casting light jigs and roadrunners in the spring and fall to take advantage of higher numbers of black crappie in the population.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Fishing remains very good with excellent numbers of >15 inch fish and numbers of >20 inch fish well above average. Fish shallow during spring with jigs and floating rapalas. Post spawn fish move to drop offs in the main lake and mouths of the bays. Try fishing Carolina rigs, jigs, and crank baits in deeper water. In fall, bass move into the bays to feed on shad.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Good numbers of 8 - 10 inch fish with trophies up to 13 inches. Prime fishing occurs in late April and throughout May as fish are spawning. Fish can be found in areas with gravel substrate and vegetation. Redear generally spawn a bit deeper than bluegill.
Sauger	Fair	Population consisting of some harvestable-size (>14 inch) fish. Many fish are caught trolling deep diving crank baits near secondary channel breaks during the early summer. Sauger can also be caught while fishing for catfish along the main river channel. Good fishing during the winter months in the tailwater area below the dam.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Smallmouth bass make up a small portion of the total bass population but are common in certain habitats. Best opportunity is around rocky shorelines, main lake points, and the canal during late winter and early spring with jerk baits.
Striped bass	Good	The best fishing is in the Barkley Dam tailwater. Striped bass will school up during periods of discharge downstream from the generator section of the dam. Look for schools of shad breaking the surface over flats during summer and fall in the reservoir, using topwater and blade-baits. The population is limited in the lake. Most are caught fishing ledges for white bass.
White bass	Fair	Fishing success has been decent the last few years. Look for schools of shad breaking the surface during summer and fall. Night fishing can be excellent during summer in areas where the current is restricted. Similar to striped bass, good fishing occurs in the tailwaters.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BARREN RIVER		
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Barren River Lake tailwater area fishing is best, especially during or following periods of heavy lake discharges. Good fishing also below instream dams in Bowling Green and the Greencastle areas.
Muskellunge	Good	Focus effort at the mouth of feeder creeks and around wood structure or other current breaks during the summer months. Some catches reported in Barren River Lake tailwater area.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good numbers of 12-14 inch fish. Fishing best from dam to Bowling Green. Fish above and below riffle/shoal areas and rocky banks in pool areas.
Spotted bass	Fair	Found throughout Barren River. Fish slower moving pools with rocky banks. Fish spinner baits and crankbaits in the spring and early summer. Buzzbaits during summer.
Walleye/Sauger	Good	Concentrate on areas below Greencastle dam (January – April) with worms and minnows. Good numbers of 15-inch plus fish available.
BARREN RIVER LAKE 10,000 acres (Allen and Barren counties)		
Summertime (early June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 18-20 feet.		
Bluegill (sunfish)	Good	Large population with good numbers of heavy 6 – 8 inch fish. Fish stump beds and back of coves during the spring and fall with deeper fishing in the summer along rock outcrops.
Catfish	Excellent	Good populations of channel and flathead catfish present with good numbers of larger individuals. Best fishing period is during June when spawning occurs along rock outcrops and in the backs of smaller coves. Night fishing generally best. Be on the lookout for blue catfish stocked in early 2010, as these fish will be 12-14 inches to start out the year in 2011.
Crappie	Fair	Black crappie will dominate this year's catch resulting from a good 2009 spawn. Look for most to be 9 -10 inches. White crappie numbers will be in shorter supply, but most will be in the 10 -11 inch range. Target shallower water to find black crappie in spring and early summer. Summer fishing is best around deeper structure and fish attractor/brush sites.
Hybrid striped bass	Good	Overall numbers are good with large fish (20-inch plus) available. In spring, focus on headwaters with spinner rigs and crank baits. Target main lake (around islands in lower lake) early in the morning and at dusk in the summer and fall as schools appear throughout the lake with crank baits and spoons. Look for areas where fish are working bait into the shallows; this can be some very thrilling fishing. Some fish taken during the winter months but fish are scattered throughout the lake. 300,000 stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Average numbers of 15-inch plus fish are available. Numbers of fish greater than 20 inches are on the rise.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Overall numbers continue to be low, but good fish (20-inch plus) available. Focus on lower half of the lake near the dam, fishing rocky banks and deep rocky structures.
Spotted bass	Fair	Fair numbers from 11-14 inches found throughout the lake. Fish rocky banks and rock outcrops.
White bass	Poor	Numbers are better than past years, but remain low. Often found in mixed schools with hybrid striped bass. Target headwater areas during spawning runs in late March to mid April with in-line spinners and small jigs.
Yellow bass	Excellent	Abundant and willing to bite. Adults are smaller sized (6-9 inches), with a general yellow appearance compared to white bass and hybrid striped bass. Fishing methods similar to hybrids and white bass using minnows, smaller jigs and spinners.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BEAVER LAKE 158 acres (Anderson County)		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 7-8 inch fish. Fish up to 10 inches present.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable size stocked each year; fish over 15 inches common. Fall fishing good in shallows in coves.
Crappie	Fair	Fair numbers of fish between 8-10 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of bass up to 15 inches; decreasing numbers of bass over 15 inches.
Redear sunfish	Good	Many 7-9 inch fish available around vegetation; 10-11 inch fish possible.
BESHEAR LAKE 760 acres (Caldwell and Christian counties)		
Blue catfish	Fair	Blue catfish have been stocked annually since 2005. Their population is doing fair, with good growth. Some already measure 25 inches and weigh over 5 pounds.
Bluegill	Fair	Numerous small fish with occasional 8 inch fish caught.
Channel catfish	Excellent	High numbers of 10-15 inch channel catfish in the population. Channel catfish are stocked annually at 10-12 inches. Underutilized fishery, where most anglers fishing for catfish use jug lines or noodles.
Crappie	Fair	Numerous fish in the 6-8 inch range, with an occasional 10 incher. Best fishing during spring in areas of aquatic vegetation and around woody structure.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Population is dominated by bass 12 -18 inches. Best fishing during spring when fish move to shallow water along the water willow and lily pads. Try fishing the edges of these weeds with a pearl colored fluke using a short jerk retrieve or with a white spinner bait. During the late afternoon, try top water baits.
BOLTZ LAKE 92 acres (Grant County)		
Blue catfish	Fair	Catchable size stocked each year; 25-inch plus fish possible.
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of fish between 6-8 inches.
Channel catfish	Fair	Catchable size stocked each year; fish over 15 inches common.
Crappie	Fair	Majority of fish between 6-8 inches. Larger fish possible.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of quality bass with many fish over 15 inches.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Low numbers of 6-8 inch fish available around vegetation.
BRIGGS LAKE 18 acres (Logan County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7-feet.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-8 inch fish available.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes available. Stocked annually.
Crappie	Fair	Large fish present; fish laydown trees, stakebeds and brushpiles in late winter and early spring.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Numerous 11-13 inch fish.
Redear sunfish	Good	Better than average numbers of larger fish (8-inch plus) available. Larger fish in the shallows early in the spring; move back out to deeper water later in the year.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BUCKHORN LAKE and TAILWATER 1,250 acres (Leslie and Perry counties)		
Bluegill	Good	Good size distribution. Upper lake areas and heads of coves hold best numbers during summer pool. Shallow mudflats in main lake areas can hold large congregations of fish on spawning beds.
Catfish	Good	Stable population of both channel and flathead catfish. Tailwater provides additional good fishery. Some flathead catfish available up to 40-50 pounds.
Crappie	Fair	Excellent numbers up to 9-10 inches. Numbers of fish over the 9 inch length limit will be slightly better in 2011 than the previous couple of years. July and August can provide some very good fishing over shallow mud flats adjacent to main lake channel. Try trolling bait tipped jigs or small crankbaits over the flats.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Excellent growth rates of young bass and fair numbers of 15-inch plus fish. Good size distribution, but low overall numbers. Fingerlings were stocked in the fall of 2005, 2006, 2008, and 2009 to make up for poor spawning years.
Muskellunge	Excellent	Good numbers of musky from mid-30 to mid-40 inches; fishing can be difficult for periods following flood events, January-March will congregate fish in the lower lake and near dam.
White bass	Fair	Many 5-7 inch fish observed in fall of 2010. Look for a good number of these fish to be quality size and harvestable in 2013. Lower numbers of 13-15 inch fish will be available for 2011.
BULLOCK PEN LAKE 134 acres (Grant County)		
Blue catfish	Fair	Catchable size stocked each year for research purposes; 25-inch plus fish possible.
Bluegill	Poor	Most fish are 6 inches or less, but are abundant.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable size stocked each year; potential for larger fish.
Crappie	Fair	Most under 9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of bass at and above size limit (12-inch size limit). Excellent potential for quality size fish and bass over 20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Very low numbers.
White bass	Fair	Small population of large fish in the 14-17 inch range.
CARPENTER LAKE 64 acres (Daviness County)		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Most fish 6-7 inches; few larger fish in the population.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Good number of 15-20 inch plus fish in the population.
Largemouth bass	Good	Most fish less than 12-inches, but a few larger (14-20 inch) fish available.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Low but increasing numbers. Most fish 7-8 inches, but some 9-10 inch fish also available.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CARR CREEK LAKE 710 acres (Knott County)		
Hydrilla was documented in Carr Creek Lake for the first time in 2008. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species within the lake and between lakes by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers, and equipment.		
Bluegill	Fair	Good numbers of small bluegill present. Shallow water areas in creek arms provide good fishing in spring and early summer.
Crappie	Fair	Improving fishery compared to recent years. Very heavy fishing pressure with some good catches of large fish. Larger black crappie will usually range from 9-11 inches and white crappie from 10-16 inches. Areas with heavy concentration of downed trees and submerged brushpiles will congregate large numbers of fish during most of the year.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Good numbers of large fish. Fish greater than 20 inches are available. March-early April provides very good fishing success for big fish. Receives frequent stockings of fingerling fish in the fall due to consistently poor spawns.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Low numbers but fish sampled up to 20 inches.
Spotted bass	Good	Numbers are concentrated in lower and mid lake; a few large fish up to 16 inches with majority from 7-12 inches; rock shoreline at dam is a good area for large fish.
Walleye	Excellent	Very high numbers of fish from 15-26 inches; a few fish up to 30 inches; March through May are good months to try during day or night.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CAVE RUN LAKE	8,270 acres	(Bath, Menifee, Rowan and Morgan counties)
Heavy beds of aquatic vegetation cover most portions of the shallow flats in the middle section of the lake, pockets around the backs of coves in the lower section of the lake, and areas of Poppin Rock and Beaver Creek. Extended periods of high water in the spring usually limits some of this growth; however, if this high water does not occur, weed beds tend to expand. Angling in and around these weed beds should be fairly good especially for species such as muskellunge, largemouth bass and black crappie. These weed beds usually show up as the weather warms and die back during the winter months.		
Bluegill	Good	Widespread within the lake, most 7-inches long or less, but it is not unusual to catch 7-8 inch bluegill. Look for bluegill early in the year in the back of coves or other shallow water areas that warm up first or where bluegill are spawning. Later, look around stumps or sunken woody structure within many areas of the lake.
Catfish	Good	Good numbers of channel catfish up to two feet long are fairly common along with a few larger fish. While not as plentiful as the channel catfish, flathead catfish are common and trophy sized fish are present. Both species are found along shallow rocky shoreline areas in early May-June where they seek cover in rock piles and submerged logs seeking to spawn. Later in the year they tend to be found in deeper water.
Crappie	Fair	Exceptional numbers of young fish were captured in 2009 sampling. This should translate into an upswing in the numbers of larger fish in 2011 and 2012. Crappie populations are cyclic, and it seems that this population is on the increase for the near future. Six to eight inch crappie are the most common size found, but fair numbers of 10 - 12 inch fish can be found during spring and fall months. However, success generally declines through the summer months. During the spring look for black crappie in the shallows near shore and later in the year they can be found along the weed beds.
Largemouth bass	Good	Try fishing the edges and pockets of the weed beds and fallen trees. Largemouth bass are much more numerous within the upper lake reaches. In the lower lake, largemouth bass are more common within embayment areas especially around woody structure. Try the North Fork area, especially rock banks warmed by the morning sun in April and May. Note: 13-16 inch protective slot limit.
Muskellunge	Excellent	Trophy fish are numerous in the lake and chances to catch fish over 40 inches are great. There's even a good chance to catch fish over 50 inches. Spring fishing should focus on the backs of the main lake coves (Warix, Scott's Creek, Buck Creek and Leatherwood) using rattle baits, fast moving jerk baits, and medium sized twitch baits. For fall fishing, focus on the weed beds on the shallow flats using top water baits or jerk baits. Best times of the year for muskellunge on Cave Run are typically April and October. Note: 36 inch minimum size limit, one fish creel limit.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Chiefly found, although not common, in the lower lake areas and are rare within the Licking and North Fork areas of the lake. Look for them off rocky points or shoreline areas in the main lake. Note: 18-inch minimum size limit.
Spotted bass	Good	Numerous within the mid and lower main lake shoreline; become less common within the upper reaches of the lake. Most less than 13 inches long.
White bass	Good	Should provide some good action. Look for them up lake early in the spring and in the jumps with the gizzard shad in the hot months of the year. Jumps for the last couple of years have been short in duration and somewhat difficult to locate, but once found can provide for good action. There are good numbers of fish 11-15 inches long; some larger. Note: No more than 5 white bass in the daily creel limit may be greater than 15-inches long.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CEDAR CREEK LAKE	784 acres (Lincoln County)	
Bluegill	Good	Bluegills are abundant, but most are less than 7 inches long. Anglers may see a few bluegill exceeding 8 inches this year.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers of 12-18 inch fish with some catfish over 20 inches.
Crappie	Fair	The crappie fishery is improving, however, most of the crappie are still a little small (< 10 inches). This is a good lake to take the family crappie fishing.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Good density of large fish (17-21 inch) with increasing numbers of fish exceeding 20 inches. Note: A trophy regulation of a 20-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish creel limit, is in effect on this lake.
Redear sunfish	Good	Good numbers of 6-9 inch fish, although not as numerous as bluegill.
CLEAR CREEK LAKE	40 acres (Bath County)	
Eurasian watermilfoil has covered a good portion of the lake; therefore fishing may be difficult especially in the fall. Grass carp were stocked in 2007, 2008 and 2009 in attempts to control plant growth. Please release any that are caught. 2010 fish surveys could not be accomplished due to heavy aquatic vegetation.		
Bluegill	Good	Very good numbers of 6-7 inch bluegill are present with occasional 8 inch fish caught. Fish shallow shoreline areas in spring especially behind standing timber.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Lake receives heavy pressure and fishing can be tough. A few bass in the 20-25 inch range have been sampled. A 23-inch largemouth bass was caught by an angler in 2010 and catches of more fish this size should be expected in 2011.
Redear sunfish	Good	Good population of 7-8 inch fish with several 9 and 10 inch fish present.
CORINTH LAKE	96 acres (Grant County)	
Bluegill	Fair	Numbers of quality-size fish decreased.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable size stocked each year; fish over 15 inches common.
Crappie	Fair	8-9 inch fish are possible.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of bass between 12 and 15 inches. Increasing numbers of larger fish.
Redear sunfish	Good	Fair numbers of fish greater than 7 inches; Numbers of quality-size fish continue to decrease due to shad population.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CUMBERLAND LAKE	50,250 acres	(Russell, Wayne, Clinton, and Pulaski counties)
The boundaries of Lake Cumberland are now defined as Cumberland Falls on the Cumberland River, Devils Jump on the Big South Fork, the Narrows of Rockcastle River and Laurel River Lake Dam on Laurel River.		
Bluegill	Good	Numerous 6-7 inch bluegill available.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Overlooked fishery offers excellent numbers of 16-20 inch fish.
Crappie	Good	Fairly low density population but should be adequate numbers of keeper (10-inch plus) crappie, with occasional catches of larger (> 12-inch) crappie. Best catches in upper half of lake. Try headwaters of the lake (near mouth of Laurel and Rockcastle Rivers) in early spring for some excellent fishing.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good density of 13-17 inch fish; some larger fish are available. Creek arms in upper lake are slightly better for largemouth than lower lake arms.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good winter fishery. Plenty of 15-18 inch fish present with stable numbers of 18-inch plus fish.
Spotted bass	Good	Spotted bass are abundant in the lake. Anglers can expect good numbers of 11-15 inch fish with an occasional larger fish.
Striped bass	Good	The lake experienced a partial die-off of stripers last year, however, anglers shouldn't notice much difference in overall numbers this year. Several year-classes remain in the lake and the 2006 and 2007 year classes (mostly 25-30 inch fish) should provide the bulk of the fishery. A very abundant 2009 year class (mostly 16-20 inch fish) bodes well for the future.
Walleye	Fair	Anglers can expect fewer walleye in 2011 as the population density appears to be down. The once -promising 2008 year-class hasn't materialized; and fewer older fish remain in the population. Stocking numbers will be increased in 2011 to boost the walleye population.
White bass	Fair	Numbers are improving and the 2009 and 2010 year classes appear to be good ones. Anglers can expect to catch increasing numbers of white bass in the lake. For best success, try headwater areas in early spring.
CUMBERLAND LAKE TAILWATER		(Russell, Cumberland, Clinton, and Monroe counties)
Striped bass	Good	Best below Burkesville using live bait or trolling shad colored crankbaits or soft plastics. Fish over 20 lbs not uncommon. With warmer tailwater temperatures due to dam repair, stripers can be found throughout the tailwater.
Rainbow trout	Good	Continued dam repairs and warmer water will likely affect the trout population again in 2011. Anglers can expect the numbers and size of rainbow trout to be down from peak years, but good fishing still exists in the tailwater. Initial stockings of sterile rainbow trout will be added to the mix in 2011. The sterile trout have better growth potential than fertile trout because their energy goes into growth instead of reproduction.
Brown trout	Good	Numbers and size of brown trout have also significantly decreased due to changes in the tailwater associated with the dam repair. Expect fewer trout than in previous years.
Walleye/Sauger	Fair/Good	Fish dam area in late February – mid March. From mid-summer to fall, fish below Burkesville trolling shad colored crankbaits or nightcrawler rigs. Due to warmer tailwater temperatures, sauger and walleye can be found throughout the tailwater most of the year.
White bass	Fair/Good	Best in lower sections near creek mouths. If lower section warms due to lower flows from dam repair, fish can be found above Burkesville area.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
DALE HOLLOW LAKE 4,300 acres in Kentucky (Clinton and Cumberland counties)		
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of 14-17 inch fish.
Smallmouth bass	Excellent	Excellent fishery, particularly in winter when float-n-fly techniques prevail. Good numbers of fish larger than 3 lb.
Spotted bass	Good	Good size distribution with several fish exceeding 13 inches.
DEWEY LAKE 1,100 acres (Floyd County)		
Zebra mussels and hydrilla are present at Dewey Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of these damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers, and equipment.		
Bluegill	Good	Stable population with good growth. Large fish are around 7 inches long.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Good numbers found in the lower lake during winter months. The upper lake is best in the summer months. Over 50,000 fish were stocked in 2010.
Crappie	Good	With hydrilla reduced in recent years, crappie are starting to show better growth. Another year with good catches of 9-12 inch crappie is expected in 2011. Black and white crappie are present.
Flathead catfish	Good	Good size distribution; a few large fish from 20-40 pounds caught each year; popular with ticklers/noodlers in June; try fishing shallow in September and October.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Bass continue to show good size distribution. However, numbers over 15 inches are slightly lower than recent years. Good numbers of fish produced in 2009 and 2010, and these will start providing a lot of keepers in 2012 and after.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Thick growths of hydrilla during 2006-2008 have built up an excellent population of fish. 36,000 fish were stocked in 2010 to keep numbers strong. Fish are present through 12 inches. Try fishing bait near the bottom around weedy areas or brush.
White bass	Good	Numbers remain stable; good spawn and recruitment during 2001, 2002, 2008, and 2010; stocking program initiated in 2003 and continued through 2007; locating them or their schools is key to any degree of success.
ELKHORN CREEK – main stem and North Fork (Franklin and Scott counties)		
Channel catfish	Good	Large fish possible in bigger pools; good numbers of "keeper" fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Quality fishing found in slow moving pools in the North Fork. Note: 12-16 inch slot limit applies on main stem.
Rock Bass	Good	Many fish between 7-9 inches in main stem and in the lower North Fork section.
Smallmouth bass	Excellent	Good numbers of smallmouth bass, especially on the main stem, within the slot. Good numbers of fish greater than 16 inches. Note: fish from 12-16 inches (slot limit) are protected in the main stem.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
ELMER DAVIS LAKE	149 acres (Owen County)	
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers above 8 inches; many around beaver lodges. Bluegill 9 inches or larger possible.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable size stocked each year; fish over 15 inches possible.
Crappie	Fair	Most around 9-11 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good	Plenty of bass under 12-15 slot limit with good numbers in the protected slot. Bass numbers greater than 15 inches stable. Weed beds are back and trophy-size fish possible.
Redear sunfish	Good	Fish greater than 8 inches possible near weed beds or on spawning beds in upper embayments. "Shellcrackers" greater than 10 inches present. Panfish are being impacted by the return of gizzard shad.
Wormouth	Fair	Nice sized fish present, usually around weed beds. Locally known as "redeye" or "rockbass".
FAGAN BRANCH LAKE	140 acres (Marion County)	
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 7-inch plus fish available.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers of 11-14 inch fish. Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Fair	Best fishing early and late and at night under floating lights using minnows. Fair numbers of fish, but not many larger fish (10-inch plus).
Largemouth bass	Fair	Stable population but slower growing. Fair numbers of 12-inch plus fish available.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Best fishing will be at night under floating lights from May–October due to clear water. Fish will be in 20-30 foot range during the summer. Stocked since 2010.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Above average numbers of larger fish (8-inch plus) present.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	12-inch plus fish available with occasional larger fish (18-inch plus). Concentrate on dam areas.
FISHPOND LAKE	32 acres (Letcher County)	
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers and size distribution up to 10 inches; largest individuals will be deeper than young fish; try night fishing for large fish under overhanging shoreline brush and trees; wormouth are another panfish that are available at Fishpond and reach large sizes there.
Channel catfish	Fair	Lake receives annual stocking; fish up to 21 inches present. Night fishing may produce best results.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Very good size distribution of fish up to 24 inches and 10 pounds. Water is very clear and fish are often very difficult to catch during daylight hours.
Rainbow trout	Good	Fishing is best near months stocked; stockings are in January, April, May, and October. Due to clear water most fishing is done at night. A few trout will oversummer in most years providing fish up to 16 inches.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
FISHTRAP LAKE and TAILWATER 1,131 acres (Pike County)		
Zebra mussels are present at Fishtrap Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers, and equipment.		
Bluegill	Good	Some large bluegill available up to 11-12 inches; May and June have been popular months for angling.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Good size distribution and numbers found throughout the lake.
Crappie	Fair	Numbers similar to recent years with no increases predicted for 2011. Good springtime fishing is expected as it has been in previous years.
Flathead catfish	Excellent	Good size distribution; largest fish sampled in lower lake. Good numbers found up into headwater area of lake.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Very good numbers of hybrids in the lower lake late summer and at winter pool. Fair spawning run in headwaters in April. Night fishing has become popular; look for fish in the jumps from May-July. Good distribution of fish through 10 pounds. This is an underutilized fishery.
Largemouth bass	Good	Fair numbers with excellent size distribution and good growth; ratio of keeper size bass is one of the best in eastern Kentucky. Approximately 11,500 were stocked in 2010 to supplement a relatively poor spawn.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Population continues to grow, comprising approximately 15% of black bass; good fishing primarily in the headwaters of the lake up into the Levisa Fork River and in the lower portion of the lake from Grapevine to dam; large individuals up to 22 inches. Approximately 30,000 stocked in 2010.
White bass	Poor	A few large white bass can be found scattered around the lake usually roaming with hybrid striped bass.
GRAYSON LAKE 1,512 acres (Carter and Elliott counties)		
Bluegill	Good	Numerous, up to 7-inches long; widespread throughout the lake along with other species of panfish. Try fishing 5-6 feet deep in May and June.
Catfish	Good	Widespread throughout the lake. Fair numbers of channel and flathead catfish up to 20-inches long; some trophy sized flathead catfish. Summer jug fishing in the Bongos area of the lake should be good and try fishing the middle and upper sections in early fall.
Crappie	Fair	Success should be as good or better than 2010. Try fishing around cover, areas of weed beds or along the river and creek channels especially in the Bruin and Clifty areas of the Lake. Generally, it seems as though the upper portion of the lake provides the best opportunity to catch the whites and the middle section is the best place for the blacks.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Found lake wide, most numerous of the black bass species in the lake. Population tends to decline after the 12 inch size class in spite of the minimum size limit. Try fishing the upper reaches of the lake in the early spring; some 5 to 6 pound bass can be found here. Higher water conditions in the spring allow the large bass to temporarily occupy the brush on the banks of the lake. Note: 15 inch minimum size limit.
Spotted bass	Fair	Stable population; numbers decline above 11 inches; most fish found in lower 2/3 of lake.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Small population exists, but not routinely captured in our sampling efforts. Lower area of the lake near rocky structure would be the preferred habitat.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
GREEN RIVER (dam at Rochester down to mouth at Spottsville)		
Catfish	Good	Good populations of channel, blue, and flathead catfish. Trophy size blue and flathead catfish available. Good bets are tailwaters below locks and dams, in deeper holes, and around logs, brush, or rocks.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Fish tributary mouths and brush along bank in spring and fall. Use live minnows for best results.
Striped and hybrid striped bass	Good	Stripers and hybrids congregate below dams late spring through early fall. Cast top water plugs or lead head jigs with plastic bodies into boils below dams.
White bass	Good/Excellent	Fish mouth of tributary streams in spring and below dams mid-spring through early fall. Top water baits or lead head jigs below dams and lead head jigs or live bait at mouth of tributary streams during spring. Fish new bank access area and boat ramp at mouth of Pond River late March through April.
GREEN RIVER (dam at Rochester up to Green River Lake Dam)		
Muskellunge	Good	Fishing best at feeder creek mouth's and around wood structure or other debris and current breaks. Fishing below instream dams also good bet. Stocked annually throughout river above Rochester.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Fishing best below dam to 31E in Hart County.
Walleye	Fair	Fishing best below Green River Lake dam area and instream dams during late winter and early spring. Stocked annually throughout the river.
GREEN RIVER LAKE 8,210 acres (Taylor and Adair counties)		
Summertime (mid-June through mid-October) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 20-25 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Large population with occasional 7-8 inch fish; fish stump beds and back ends of coves during spring and deep-water brush and structure during summer.
Channel catfish	Excellent	All sizes available. Hook and line fishing best at night or when water levels are on the rise and muddy. Jug fishing good mid-summer to fall.
Largemouth bass	Good	Fair number of fish overall. Better than average numbers of larger fish (18-20 inch plus) available from strong year class/spawn of 2004.
Muskellunge	Excellent	Legal sized fish (36-inch) abundant. Good numbers of 40-inch plus fish. Fall, late winter and spring excellent time to catch trophy fish. Population maintained by annual stocking.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	All sizes present with opportunity for trophy-sized fish; most abundant in mid-lower sections of Robinson Creek and Green River arms.
Spotted bass	Good	Better than average numbers of 12-inch plus fish. 15-inch plus spots available.
Walleye	Fair	Overall numbers are fair as are numbers of larger fish (20-inch plus). Fish dam area and headwater areas of Robinson Creek and Green River arms in late February through mid-to-late March. Concentrate on standing timber coves, main lake stump beds, humps, and channel drop offs during summer and fall. Population maintained by annual stocking.
White bass	Poor	Overall numbers are very low. Department is in process of stocking the lake to re-establish population.
White crappie	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of harvestable-size fish (9-inches plus). Lots of sub-legal fish that you may have to wade through to find keeper fish.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
GREENBO LAKE	181 acres	(Greenup County - Greenbo State Park)
Bluegill	Fair	This population continues to slowly but steadily improve; larger fish (up to 10 inches) are caught early to late spring in deep-water structure. Try fishing near beaver lodges. Note: Bluegill and other sunfish -15 fish daily creel limit.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually; many 2-3 pound fish observed during fall sampling.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good bass population but very difficult lake to fish; good numbers of fish over 15-inches with potential for trophy size bass. Due to water clarity, anglers may have to fish deeper. In the fall of 2008 and 2010, approximately 2,700 4.5-inch largemouth bass were stocked to offset the effects of poor spawns during each of those two years.
Rainbow trout	Excellent	Annually stocked population with some carry-over; best fishing year round in the open lake area. During the spring and summer try fishing at night under lights. Winter fishing can also be good.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Numbers low, however a few 8-13 inch fish can be found. After the spawn try fishing in deeper water near the bottom. Note: See bluegill regulation.
GUIST CREEK LAKE	317 acres	(Shelby County)
Bluegill	Fair	Many fish, most less than 6 inches. Easy to catch. Good place to take a child fishing with live bait.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Catchable size stocked each year; very good numbers of fish with potential for trophies. Note: This lake is home to current bullhead catfish and white catfish state records.
Common Carp	Good	Bottom-fish with grain-based bait; 3 to 4 lb. fish common.
Crappie	Fair	Most in the 6-8 inch range.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Many fish in the 20-25 inch range; potential for trophy-sized fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Very good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit; excellent potential for a trophy fish.
HERRINGTON LAKE	2,500 acres	(Mercer, Boyle and Garrard counties)
Bluegill	Good	Stable number of fish up to 8 inches in and around cover in embayments and inlets of rock walls; best April-June.
Common Carp	Fair	Fish in coves or headwaters with grain-based baits on bottom.
Crappie	Good	Difficult to locate, but many quality-size fish (9 inches or larger) available. Best around brush in upper half of lake. Potential for large black crappie around debris in inlets in main lake.
Flathead catfish	Good	All sizes present; usually feed at night on sunfish and shad.
Hybrid striped bass	Good	Two to five pound fish are common; possible trophy-sized fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of fish over 12 inches, many over 15 inches. Largest fish around shoreline cover in March and April; potential for trophy-sized fish. Best success in the upper half of lake. Good night fishing during the summer.
Longnose gar	Good	Large fish common; look for them around schools of shad. Schooling common in fall; potential trophy size.
White bass	Good	Should see good numbers during the spring run up the Dix River. Good numbers of fish in the 12-14 inch range. Winter and spring rains should improve the spring spawning run. Trophy-size present.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
KENTUCKY LAKE and TAILWATER 51,000 acres (Marshall, Calloway, Lyon, Livingston and Trigg counties)		
Blue catfish	Excellent	In the lake, best fishing along deep main lake channels during the summer. Fish congregate along the ledges of the channel when there is current, and scatter along the adjacent flats during periods of low flow. Drift using live shiners or cut shad/skipjack in areas where creek channels meet the main river channel. Other baits to try include chicken hearts, night crawlers, grass hoppers or catalpa worms. In the tailwaters there is year around fishing. The ideal times are in April and May, and October and November. Best to use fresh bait (shad and skipjack herring) caught in the tailwaters. Expect construction in tailwater area, with limited bank fishing.
Bluegill	Excellent	Expect some of the best bluegill fishing we have seen in a while. There are high numbers of 6-8 inch fish. The best fishing is in May, but bluegill can be caught year around. Crickets and worms under corks during the spawn are great baits. Later in summer try the stake beds or deep (6-10 ' water) brush piles. Catch bluegill in a feeding frenzy during the summer months where mayflies are hatching along the shoreline. Also try deeper rocky points during the summer with pieces of night crawlers.
Channel catfish	Excellent	In the lake, best fishing during late spring along chunky rock main lake shoreline and rip-rap shoreline around dam and marinas. Good fishing along river channel during summer and on flats along the secondary channels. In the tailwaters there is year-around fishing. However, bluecat outnumber the channel cat in the tailwater area. Expect construction in tailwater area, with limited bank fishing.
Crappie	Good	Numbers of larger size crappie are down due to a few poor year classes. With more recent spawns producing good numbers for recruitment. Anglers fishing deep are catching fair numbers of keeper size white crappie. Anglers fishing shallow are catching fair numbers of black crappie. Black crappie prefer clear water and gravelly shoreline. Casting the shoreline with a curly tail jig works good. Crappie are vulnerable during late winter or early spring as they move toward shallow water areas for spawning. Fish are shallow in early to mid April around buttonball bushes, brush piles and stake beds. Crappie move to secondary channels, drops and flats near creek channels during the fall and winter.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Lots of fish below the 18 inch size range due to several good year classes. During the spring, fish move to wood structure along the shoreline. During the summer, big fish are found along the main lake drops and secondary channels. Smaller fish can be found in the backs of embayments around brush and chasing shad. During the fall, fishing around boat docks and rocky shorelines is good.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Moderate numbers of 8 - 12 inch redear. Best fishing is in late April and early May. Fish like areas with gravel substrate. If there are yellow mustard flowers inundated by water in the backs of embayments during this time, this is a good place to find redear. Submerged pondweed clumps also hold redear sunfish. These fish primarily feed on the bottom on bugs, snails and small mussels; hence you need to fish near or on the bottom. Redear generally spawn a little deeper than bluegill.
Sauger	Fair	Moderate population of harvestable-size (>14 inch) fish. Best fishing is in fall and winter along secondary channels. Try trolling crankbaits. In the tailwaters there is a higher abundance of harvestable-size sauger. This is a good winter fishery. Expect construction in tailwater area, with limited bank fishing.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Best fishing along rocky shorelines and bluffs, creek channels at mouths of embayments, the canal main lake points, and main lake stumps. Night fishing during the summer months along gravel bars at the mouths of LBL embayments and rocky shoreline is good with dark color spinner baits or crayfish color creature baits.
Spotted bass	Fair	Low to moderate numbers 12 -15 inches in length. Spotted bass are not normally targeted, but caught while fishing for largemouth or smallmouth bass. Spotted bass migrate to the streams at the backs of embayments during the early spring. Gravelly bars and points are a prime area to fish during the summer. Secondary points are good during the fall.
Striped bass	Fair	Striped bass and hybrid striped bass are being caught from the lake while fishing for white bass. Trolling with 6 inch deep diver baits which imitate minnows is effective. Better fishing is below Kentucky Dam in the tailwater. Fish congregate below the dam during periods of discharge through the generator section of dam. Using live herring is the preferred bait. Expect construction in tailwater area, with limited bank fishing. From the shoreline fish with 4 inch sassy shad type baits.
White bass	Fair	Best fishing on main lake in the summer when white bass are found along secondary creek channels near main river channel. Look for main channel points and bends; also near the canal. Good numbers in the Kentucky Dam tailwater area along with its cousin the yellow bass. Expect construction in tailwater area, with limited bank fishing.
Yellow bass	Good	Lots of fish but they don't get real big. Their taste is better then most anglers perceive. Casting the rocky shoreline with a curly tail jig or rooster tail works great.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
KENTUCKY RIVER 255 miles (main stem)		
Bluegill*	Fair	Shoreline areas around woody debris out of the current hold some quality fish but in low numbers.
Channel catfish	Fair	Look for silt-free rocky habitat or below dams or palisades.
Common Carp	Fair	Bottom fish with grain-based baits below dams.
Crappie*	Fair	Currently very good number of crappie in the Kentucky River; locate in backwater/creek-mouth areas with low current. Fish up to 12 inches or larger possible.
Flathead catfish	Fair	Large fish present around large boulders and log jams.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Sporadic catches of 15- to 20-inch fish below dams. Numbers are increasing due to a stocking program which began in 2006.
Largemouth bass*	Fair	Locate in cover just below dams, in creek mouths, bank slides, or around timber. Numbers have been reduced due to recent flood events over the past year.
Muskellunge	Good	Best in spring around creek mouths, and in summer around timber and creek mouths. Stocked annually in upper river. More fish in upper half of river (pools 6-14).
Sauger	Good	Found around sand bars, creek mouths, below dams around rock and sand bars; numbers are increasing due to a stocking program which began in 2006.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Nice fish possible in mouths of quality tributaries. Also found around rock piles and walls.
Spotted bass	Fair	Sporadic catches of small to medium-sized fish; usually below dams but also around palisade rock wall areas.
Walleye	Fair	Present in low numbers due to escapement from reservoir in headwaters and stocking program. Good size fish possible below dams.
White bass	Good	Many 10-12 inch fish below dams; numbers are increasing due to a stocking program which began in 2006.

*These are considered "standing water species" and do best in the river after prolonged periods of low-flow conditions. High water or flooding conditions for extended periods will reduce their numbers in the Kentucky River.

KINCAID LAKE 183 acres (Pendleton County)		
Bluegill	Poor	Most fish are less than 6 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable size stocked each year; good potential for fish over 15 inches.
Crappie	Poor	Most between 7-9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of fish over 15 inches; excellent potential for a trophy fish. Note: 12-inch size limit.

LAKE CARNICO 114 acres (Nicholas County)		
Bluegill	Fair	Numbers are low, however a few fish greater than 6 inches can be found.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good populations of bass; good numbers of fish greater than 15 inches and a few 20 inch bass are present. Five hundred 4.5-inch largemouth bass were stocked in the fall of 2008 and again in the fall of 2010 to help offset effects of a poor spawn in those years.
Redear sunfish	Poor/Fair	Numbers are low, however a few fish greater than 5 inches can be found

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
LAKE LINVILLE 274 acres (Rockcastle County)		
Bluegill	Excellent	Abundant 6-8 inch fish available. Good access for bank anglers.
Crappie	Fair	Moderate numbers of relatively good size (9-11 inches) fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked during odd-numbered years. Good numbers of 12-18 inch fish with some fish over 20 inches available. Good bank fishing available.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Began annual stockings in 2007. The 2009 and 2010 stockings appear to be doing well and anglers can expect good numbers of 10-13 inch hybrids and a fair number of larger fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	High density population of mostly smaller fish (9-13 inches); a fair number of fish larger than 18 inches are present.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Low density population.
Spotted bass	Good	Abundant, but few fish exceed 12 inches.
White bass	Fair	Improving numbers of 11-14 inch whites.
LAKE MALONE 826 acres (Muhlenburg, Todd, and Logan counties)		
Bluegill	Fair	Population mostly comprised of 4-6 inch fish. Some larger fish available.
Channel catfish	Fair/Good	Large number, but mostly slow-growing smaller fish less than 14-inches. Stocking rate will be reduced to increase growth rate.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Moderate number of 9-10 inch fish. Fish brush piles and fallen trees along some of the steeper banks.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Excellent stable population with large number of 15-20 inch fish. Many trophy fish available. Fish the shoreline waterwillow during spring and at night during summer with plastic baits. Fish submerged trees and brush along deeper banks in summer with spinner baits and jigs.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Low number of redear, but good size (9-11 inch) fish available. Fish water willow edge along the shoreline in spring-early summer. Move to deeper submerged structure as water warms during summer.
LAKE REBA 76 acres (Madison County)		
Vegetation in the lake continues to be a problem in spite of the increase in herbicide treatment and introduction of more grass carp to control the problem. Most likely, drought experienced last year along with the natural high fertility of the region will continue to cause vegetation growth. Grass carp stocked last spring will be in their prime this season and should contribute more to the control of the vegetation. Remember it is illegal to harvest grass carp from this lake.		
Bluegill	Good	Abundant but very few larger than 6 inches long. Many of these small fish tend to be found thick in the weed beds. Good opportunity for kids to catch a fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Also many brown bullheads 12-15 in long can be found in the lake.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Most bass are smaller than the 15-inch minimum size limit. Larger bass generally are in areas of the lake that need to be reached by boat. Several bass over 19-inches long have been sampled. In the fall of 2008, 2009 and 2010, the lake was stocked with young-of-the-year fish to offset poor spawns. Note: 15-inch minimum size limit.
Redear sunfish	Good	Fair numbers within the lake, most less than 7 inches long. See bluegill comments.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
LAKE WILGREEN 169 acres (Madison County)		
Illegal introductions (sources unknown) of gizzard shad are beginning to impact the sunfish fishery and could carry over to the largemouth bass in the near future.		
Bluegill	Fair	Healthy population up to 6 - 7 inches then a sharp decline. The population is showing signs of the competition with the shad in the smaller size classes. Removal of some of the smaller 4 - 6 inch fish may help this problem.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	High number of fish over 15 inches and good numbers of fish over 20 inches. Larger fish are healthy for their size due to the shad population. Smaller fish beginning to show some signs of decline due to the shad. For the time being a great place to fish for larger bass, although catching these fish may be difficult since they have about all they need to eat.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Low number of fish were sampled in 2010, especially in the 6 inch and greater range. See bluegill.
LAUREL RIVER LAKE 5,830 acres (Whitley and Laurel counties)		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-7 inch fish.
Crappie	Fair	Overall numbers remain low, but the lake contains some quality crappie.
Largemouth bass	Good	Stable population of 14-18 inch fish with a few over 20 inches. Upper Laurel River arm is best area. Laurel received supplemental stocking of fingerlings last fall to boost poor 2010 year class.
Rainbow trout	Good	Stocked annually. Should be good numbers of 10-14 inch trout. Best fishing at night from May – September. Try trolling during November – March.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good winter fishery with a satisfactory density of quality fish available. Best in mid and lower sections of the lake.
Spotted bass	Good	Good density of 11-14 inch fish with a few exceeding 15 inches. Best in the mid and lower sections of the lake.
Walleye	Good	Good 2009 year class should provide a moderate density of 17-21 inch fish. Fish at night for best chance at a larger fish.
White bass	Poor	Low density population. Best numbers in Laurel River arm.
LAUREL CREEK RESERVOIR 43 acres (McCreary County)		
Channel catfish	Fair	Stocked every other year.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Numerous 10-13 inch fish with a few fish larger than 15 inches.
LIBERTY LAKE 81 acres (Casey County)		
Largemouth bass	Fair	Pretty good numbers of mostly smaller fish (<14 inches), although fish larger than 18 inches are available.
Spotted bass	Poor	Low density of mostly small fish.
White bass	Poor	A few large white bass are available.
MARION COUNTY LAKE 32 acres (Marion County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 11 feet.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-inch fish.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes available. Higher than average numbers of 12-inch plus available.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Good numbers of 10-14 inch fish.
Redear sunfish	Good	Good numbers of 6-8 inch fish. Larger fish in the shallows early in the spring then move back out to deeper water later in the year.
White Crappie	Fair/Good	Large fish available; fish laydown trees in the upper end of the lake in spring and brushpiles in late winter and summer.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
MARTINS FORK LAKE 334 acres (Harlan County)		
Bluegill	Fair	Good numbers. Most harvested fish are 7.25 inches or less. Fish shallow mud flats in spring or summer.
Channel catfish	Good	Most fish are less than 20 inches; approximately 8,000 stocked in 2010. Fish at night for better results as water is very clear.
Crappie	Fair	White crappie are present. Harvested fish are typically 9-10 inches. Crappie are scattered in shallow water in spring and congregate in tight groups in standing timber in summer.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Excellent growth but low recruitment and low numbers. A good year class of fish spawned in 2010 should improve numbers in coming years. Lower numbers have led to some nice lunker size fish though.
Walleye	Poor	The last stocking of Erie strain walleye occurred in 2004. Very few fish remain. Remaining fish should range from 20-29 inches. Stocking of native strain walleye will begin in 2012 in an attempt to build a more robust fishery.
MAUZY LAKE 85 acres (Union County, Higginson-Henry WMA)		
Bluegill	Fair	Population dominated by 5-6 inch fish, but has been improving the last couple of years.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually -many 15-22 inch fish in the population.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good number of 16-20 inch fish in the population with larger fish also available. Fish plastic baits and spinner baits around hardwood brush piles, especially in spring-early summer.
MCNEELY LAKE 51 acres (Jefferson County)		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of fish through 8 inches.
Channel catfish	Fair	Catchable size stocked each year; large fish possible.
Common Carp	Fair	A few large fish present.
Crappie	Fair	Nice fish near weed beds and fallen trees, particularly in spring.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit; best cover is water willow, fallen trees and stumps.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Good numbers of fish through 9 inches.
Warmouth	Fair	Large fish present around weed beds.
METCALFE COUNTY LAKE 22 acres (Metcalf County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair	High numbers overall with good numbers of 6-inch fish; however, few exceed 7 inches.
Blue catfish	Fair	Low numbers, but trophy sized fish (30-inch plus) available. Fish with live bait, cut bait or crankbaits near channel.
Channel catfish	Fair/Good	Fair numbers available. Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Fair	Smaller sized and not overly abundant.
Largemouth bass	Good	Fair numbers of 12-inch plus fish. Trophy fish (20-inch plus) numbers above average.
Rainbow trout	Fair	600 fish stocked in March for a put and take fishery.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
MILL CREEK LAKE	109 acres (Monroe County)	
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 12 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good numbers of 6-inch fish.
Channel catfish	Fair	Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Fair	Fair number of 8-9 inch fish. Larger crappie present but at low numbers.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Good numbers of 12-inch plus fish available; larger fish present but at low densities.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Fair numbers of 8-inch plus fish; 10-inch plus fish available.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low numbers; but trophy fish available.
MILL CREEK LAKE	41 acres (Powell/Wolfe County – Natural Bridge State Park)	
Clear, steep sided lake has limited bank access and is difficult to fish. Standing flooded timber and large boulders can be found in the upper portion of the lake. Large amounts of vegetation were observed in the fall of 2010, and this may help improve the sunfish fishery and allow for a targeted place to fish for anglers.		
Bluegill	Poor/Fair	Not overly abundant in the lake but 6 inch and greater fish are present.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Good	Similar numbers of fish greater than 15 inches as previous years. Overall, bass are not highly abundant but great opportunities to catch large healthy fish exist. Try fishing the upper portion of the lake in the flooded timber and due to the water clarity you may have to fish deeper. Note: 15 inch minimum size limit.
Rainbow trout	Excellent	Best time to fish is within the first few days after stocking; otherwise fair-to-good, usually at night during the warmer months.
NEW KINGFISHER LAKE	36 acres (Davie County)	
Bluegill	Poor	Most bluegill 3-5 inches, very few over 6 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Poor/Fair	Most fish less than 12 inches, but a few 12-16 inch fish present. Lake is still recovering from a late-summer low oxygen fish kill in 2008.
NOLIN RIVER LAKE	5,795 acres (Grayson, Edmonson and Hart counties)	
Catfish	Good	<u>Channel catfish</u> - Good number of 13-18 inch fish and many larger. Fish upper lake (Sportsman's Paradise and Cane Run) and river area in early spring and rocky main lake banks mid-May through June. <u>Flathead catfish</u> - lower numbers than channels but several large (30+ lbs) harvested annually. Fish late May through June along the steeper rocky banks.
Crappie	Good/Excellent	Very successful spawn in 2008 has resulted in a large number of 9-10 inch plus crappie in the population. Crappie angling should be very good at Nolin in 2011 with a large number of 10-11 inch fish available for harvest.
Largemouth bass	Good	Number of 15 inch and larger fish is down a bit, but still a decent number in the population. Many fish in the 12-13 inch size range should bring the number of 15 inch and larger fish back up in 2011-2012.
Walleye	Fair/Good	Good number of 15-18 inch walleye with a few up to 22-23 inches. In early spring, fish the Bacon Creek area and above with lead head jigs and grub bodies. In summer, troll Sportsman's Paradise, Conoloway Creek, and the longer main lake points in the Red Rock and Rock Creek areas of the lake.
White bass	Excellent	Excellent population of white bass. Large number of 12-14 inch and many 15-16 inch fish. Fish Bacon Creek and upper river during spring spawning run with lead head jigs and grubs. Fish longer main lake points or jumps in summer. Many fish also in summer at night under lights with jigging spoons or live minnows.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
OHIO RIVER		
Blue catfish	Good	Good populations in tailwaters and deep holes around outside bends.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Look for silt-free, rocky habitat and embayments.
Common carp	Fair	Large fish possible. Tributaries and backwaters away from current are best areas. Also watch for increasing numbers of silver carp and bighead carp.
Crappie	Good	Backwater areas and creek mouths with brushy habitat are best producers.
Flathead catfish	Good	Potential for very large fish; look for cover such as sunken logs, boulders or other large objects.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Fish up to 6 pounds in and around tailwaters.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Tributaries and backwaters away from current are best areas.
Sauger	Good	Spring and fall below dams with minnows or jigs on bottom.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low population in mid/upper river in sections of rocky habitat and tailwaters.
Spotted bass	Fair	Main channel around cover.
Striped bass	Fair	Mid-summer to late fall good for 6-10 pound fish.
Walleye	Fair	Occasionally found in tailwaters.
White bass	Good	Good population.
OLD KINGFISHER LAKE 13 acres (Daviess County)		
Bluegill	Poor	Large number of slow growing 4-6 inch fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Low number but good percentage are 12-15 inches.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
PAINTSVILLE LAKE and TAILWATER 1,139 acres (Morgan and Johnson counties)		
Hydrilla is present at Paintsville Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers, and equipment.		
Channel catfish	Fair	Large catfish present in low densities in upper lake. Down lake, large fish are often located deep; fish that are shallow can be found around rock riprap shoreline areas.
Crappie	Fair	Majority of successful fishing is done on the upper end of the lake into Open Fork and Little Paint Creeks; fish sampled up to 15 inches. Late March can often provide good catches of keeper fish in shallow water near Patoker boat ramp.
Largemouth bass	Poor	High survival of young fish due in part to presence of hydrilla which offers ample cover. Stable population with high numbers of fish <12 inches; fish sampled up to 22 inches; slow growth rates; fish over 15 inches are increasing. March is popular for catches of lunker fish.
Rainbow trout	Good	Good fishing in shallow water during winter-early spring; fair fishing in summer at depth of 20-25 feet. The catch and release portion of the tailwater can offer good quality rainbow and brown trout fishing.
Smallmouth bass	Poor/Improving	Improving slowly. Poor recruitment; fish sampled up to 22 inches; 18 inch minimum size implemented in 2005; changes made in water releases at dam in 2006 to improve summer cool water habitat; spawning benches being placed in lake to aid recruitment. Supplemental stockings of native strain fish have occurred in 2009 and 2010 with further stockings planned.
Spotted bass	Fair	Numbers down slightly; some large spotted bass present up to 14 inches. Best fishing in lower half of lake.
Walleye	Fair	Good numbers through 25 inches; numbers of larger fish are improving; potential for trophy size; look for active fish to be suspended in March; also May and October are good months to fish with live night crawlers on a light jighead fished off the bottom. During summer target weedbed edges with minnows or nightcrawlers.
White bass	Poor	Some reproduction in 2001 and 2002; a few of these fish are still available at the present; fish caught should be nice size.
PAN BOWL LAKE 98 acres (Breathitt County)		
Eurasian water milfoil is present in Panbowl Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers, and equipment. Grass carp were stocked in Panbowl Lake in 2010 to control the Eurasian water milfoil. All grass carp caught in Panbowl Lake must be released immediately.		
Bluegill	Good	Excellent numbers and size distribution up to about 7.5 inches throughout the lake. Fish early or late in the year when milfoil is not a problem.
Channel catfish	Good	Most fish are less than 20 inches; fish were stocked in 2010.
Crappie	Fair	Black and white crappie are present. Fish sampled up to 12 inches; most are less than 9 inches. Tend to congregate in tight groups in deeper areas of the lake.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Very good size distribution of fish up to 12 inches and above 18 inches. Lake contains a large amount of aquatic vegetation providing cover for large fish. These fish see a lot of angling pressure often making success for large fish tough.
Redear sunfish	Good	Excellent numbers and size distribution up to about 8.5 inches. May and June are good months to fish for them around weed beds.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
PENNYRILE LAKE 47 acres (Christian County)		
Bluegill	Fair	Improving numbers of larger bluegill. Numerous fish less than 6 inches also present. Try crickets on an Aberdeen hook under a cork.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers of catfish 12-15 inches, and a few large individuals present as well. Fishing around fallen trees and beaver huts with night crawler or cheese bait should provide success.
Crappie	Poor	Low overall numbers of crappie, but those few present are large.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Numbers of larger fish have increased in recent years. Fishing for larger bass should improve. A quiet and scenic place to fish, but remember bass are protected between 12-15 inches.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Numerous fish in the 7-9 inch range. Few redear present greater than 10 inches. Try fishing a small piece of night crawler under a cork near the bottom for best success in the shallow, vegetated, south end of the lake.
REBEL TRACE LAKE 19 acres (Menifee county)		
Eurasian watermilfoil and watershield have covered a good portion of the lake; therefore fishing may be difficult, especially in the fall. Grass carp have been stocked in 2007 and 2008 in attempts to control the vegetation so please release any grass carp caught. Sedimentation issues are causing the lake to fill in. 2010 fish surveys could not be completed due to the aquatic vegetation problems.		
Bluegill	Fair	Good numbers of 6-inch bluegill are present with occasional 8 inch fish caught. Fish shallow shoreline areas and downed timber in spring.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Lake receives heavy pressure therefore fishing can be tough. Though limited, fish up to 19-inches have been caught. Fish woody structure and weed beds.
Redear sunfish	Good	Good population of 7-inch fish with some 9-inch fish present.
ROUGH RIVER LAKE and Tailwater 5,100 acres (Breckinridge and Grayson counties)		
Catfish	Good	Good number of channel catfish in the 20-25 inch range. Lower number of flathead catfish, but trophy fish available. Tailwater good in early summer and again during fall drawdown. Fish upper lake areas in early spring and moderately steep rocky banks during mid May-June for spawning fish.
Crappie	Good	Number of 10-inch and larger fish will be down a little in 2011. Large number of 5-6 inch fish and 7-8 inch fish from highly successful spawns in 2008 and 2009. The number of 10-inch and larger fish should rebound in 2012. Tailwater area is also good early spring crappie fishery.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Excellent population of hybrid striped bass. Many 20-inch plus trophy fish available. Fish upper lake areas in spring. Troll main lake points in summer or fish jumps in main lake (Dam to Tules Creek on north fork and Dam to Little Clifty Creek on south fork). Troll main lake points or sand/mud banks again in fall. Tailwater area good in spring (April).
Largemouth bass	Good	Good number of 12-15 inch fish. The number of 15 inch and larger fish has been steadily increasing for the last few years. Bass anglers at Rough should continue to enjoy increased numbers of harvestable size bass.
SHANTY HOLLOW LAKE 135 acres (Warren and Edmonson counties)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 10 feet.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-inch plus fish available.
Channel catfish	Fair/Good	All sizes available. Higher than average numbers of 11-14 inch fish. Stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Fair numbers of keeper sized fish (15-inch plus). Lots of sublegal fish.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Fair numbers of 7-8 inch fish. Larger fish in the shallows early in the spring then move back out to deeper water in early summer.
White crappie	Fair	Large fish (10-14 inches) available. Fish stakebeds and shallow brushpiles in spring; deeper brush in late winter and summer.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
SMOKY VALLEY LAKE	36 acres	(Carter County – Carter Caves State Park)
Bluegill	Fair	Fairly common 7-inches long or less, but 8-inch bluegill are present.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Severe stunting of the population has led to a population of fish that is mainly less than 10 – 11 inches. Removal of the minimum size limit is in effect to help this stunting but improvements can only be made if some of the fish are removed. Please watch for changes to the regulations as we attempt to restore this population. Note: No minimum size limit; 6 fish daily creel limit.
SPURLINGTON LAKE	36 acres	(Taylor County)
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes present. Stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of 15-inch plus available. Use spinner baits, buzz baits and crankbaits in early summer.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Larger fish (8-inch plus) available. Larger fish in the shallows early in the spring then move back out to deeper water later in the year.
STANFORD RESERVOIR	38 acres	(Lincoln County)
Largemouth bass	Good	Good density of 12-14 inch fish with some fish larger than 18 inches available.
TAYLORSVILLE LAKE	3,050 acres	(Spencer, Anderson and Nelson counties)
Blue catfish	Good	Population stable; stocked annually since 2002. Fish with live bait, cut bait or crank baits (open water areas). Fish up to 30 inches possible.
Bluegill	Good	Good number of fish 6 inches and longer around standing timber in coves.
Channel catfish	Good	Many fish of all sizes. Look for bigger fish in the timber in spring; head of creeks in fall, points next to channel any time.
Crappie	Fair	Good number of fish at and above the 9-inch size limit. Black crappie now dominate population; good spawns of black crappie noted last year. Note: Daily creel limit 15 fish.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Overall numbers lower, but fair numbers of fish greater than 15 inches. Fish up to 30 inches are possible. In spring and fall, there is good fishing in headwaters; look for jumps early and late in day July-September.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of 12-15 inch fish; good number of 15-18 inch fish. Best in timber coves; try embayments in spring and fall.
White bass	Fair	Good numbers in Salt River above the lake in spring (with good flow from rains) and fall. Many 10-13 inch fish present.
THREE SPRINGS LAKE	30 acres	(Warren County)
Lake is very shallow (no deeper than 6 ft)		
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 6-8 inch fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Good sized fish available (15-inch plus). Stocked periodically through the spring and summer.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Numerous fish available; few fish larger than 12 inches
Rainbow Trout	Good	Stocked periodically through winter and early spring months (November–March) for put and take fishing.
Redear	Fair	Fair number of larger fish (8-inch plus) available; better than average numbers of 10-inch plus fish.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
WASHBURN LAKE 26 acres (Ohio County)		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Low number, but many fish in 7-inch range.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Good number of fish in the population with many 15-20 inch fish available.
Largemouth bass	Poor	Population dominated by slower growing sub-legal fish. Few fish greater than 12 inches.
WEST FORK DRAKES RESERVOIR 88 acres (Simpson County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 8 feet.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Numerous sizes available. Use chicken liver and worms fished at night under bobbers.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Average numbers of 12-inch plus fish.
Muskie	Fair	Fishing best in the lower half of the lake. Fish near vegetation beds in early spring and below the dam and throughout creek year-round using large inline spinners and jerk baits.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Better than average number of 8-inch plus fish.
WOOD CREEK LAKE 672 acres (Laurel County)		
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 6-7 inch bluegills.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked every other year. Good population of 12-18 inch fish available. Wood Creek is one of the better catfish fisheries in this area of the state.
Crappie	Fair	Good density of smaller fish with relatively few fish exceeding 9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good	Impressive size range with plenty of "keepers" (>15 inches) available.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Stocked annually.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Moderate numbers but several 8-inch and larger redear available. Mid and lower lake areas are best.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Low density in the lake.
Spotted bass	Fair	Most are 9-12 inches. Mid and lower lake areas are best.
YATESVILLE LAKE 2,314 acres (Lawrence County)		
Bluegill	Excellent	Excellent numbers and size distribution up to about 7.5 inches throughout the lake.
Channel catfish	Good	Quality size distribution and densities of catfish exist in all areas of the lake; during fall/early winter many fish are shallow in upper lake.
Crappie	Fair	Decent numbers of 8-10 inch fish. Larger fish up to 14 inches are available. Traditional brushy areas and deadfall trees are good for spring spawning fish, with shallow mudflats being good in the fall.
Flathead catfish	Fair	Good size distribution with fair numbers; rocky shoreline and brush will have better numbers. Last couple years have had good recruitment of young fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good size distribution of fish with good numbers of 15-inch plus fish. A supplemental stocking of fingerling bass was conducted in 2009 to boost a relatively poor spawn. Large fish are found on deep structure in early fall. Popular lake for tournament fishing as most of the year produces good results.

Fishing Tips for Kentucky and Barkley Lakes

Largemouth bass

In spring, fish shallow with a Rapala #11 or #13 gold with black back, or use floating or shallow diving stick baits. A black/brown or black/blue ½ ounce jig with #11 or #1 pork frog in the yellow mustard flowers in the backs of embayments works well. Around woody structure use a spinner bait, or plastic lizards either pumpkin or june bug color.

During summer, fish ledges near river channels with Carolina-rigged and Texas-rigged soft plastics, and deep-diving crank baits. Also fish stumps on the main lake in the mornings and evenings with topwater baits like the zara spook (current is the key to these main lake stumps being productive).

During fall, fish along main lake ledges around stumps and brush with shad-color or blue/chartreuse color crank baits. Use top water baits (zara spook or devil horse) in the flats of embayments. Use white spinner baits around main lake stumps.

The recent dry summers have really brought on the aquatic vegetation. The beds of weeds are extremely productive during the late spring, summer and early fall. Top water baits such as spooks, stick baits, plastic frogs, and buzz baits are great choices. Plastics, such as worms, along with spinner baits are also good when fishing the edges of the weed beds.

Crappie

In spring, fish shallow and over flats with jigs and minnows. Cork fish around buttonball bushes. During summer, white bass anglers trolling small crankbaits near the river channel and primary points in the lake catch many crappie. During fall, fish jigs and minnows next to deep ledges formed by the river channel. Fish may also be caught suspended on flats adjacent to the secondary channel around 10 feet deep near structure. Fall is also a good time to catch black crappie along gravelly shorelines fishing with a curly tail jig.

Blue catfish

During the summer, fish along the main river channel with minnows, cut shad/skipjack herring, and stink baits.

Channel catfish

In spring, fish with leeches or night crawlers around rip rap. During summer, fish with cut shad, chicken livers, minnows, leeches, and worms along the main river channel.

Sauger

Troll main-lake bars during the late summer and early fall with wiggle-warts or crankbaits bumping the bottom. During fall and winter, use jigs and minnows along the old river channel, along primary points near the river channel, and where a secondary channel meets the old river channel.

White bass

Fish the jumps from July – September with slab spoons or white roostertails.

Fishing Tips for Kentucky and Barkley Tailwaters

Blue and channel catfish	Best time is in May-June using cut bait or live bait fishing just off the bottom.
Sauger	Fish $\frac{3}{4}$ oz or 1 oz jigs with minnows bumping bottom in back eddies and near current. Trolling is also good during the winter and early spring. Best fishing is between December and February.
Striped bass and hybrids	Best time is from April-June using live bait (skipjack herring) or 4 inch sassy shad baits in pearl or chartreuse color with 1-2 ounce head (depending on amount of current), bumping the bottom. Live bait can be caught in the tailwaters using a cast net or a skipjack rod.

Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

(Summary of lakes forecasting good or excellent fishing for each species listed)

Water body	Largemouth bass	Smallmouth bass	Spotted bass	Bluegill	Redear sunfish	Crappie	Rainbow trout	Brown trout	Muskellunge
Barkley Lake/tailwater	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Barren River		✓							✓
Barren River Lake	✓			✓					
Beaver Lake	✓			✓	✓				
Bert Combs Lake	✓								
Beshear Lake	✓								
Beulah Lake	✓								
Boltz Lake	✓			✓					
Briggs Lake				✓	✓				
Buckhorn Lake/tailwater				✓					✓
Bullock Pen Lake	✓								
Carpenter Lake	✓								
Carr Creek Lake			✓						
Cave Run Lake	✓		✓	✓					✓
Cedar Creek Lake	✓			✓	✓				
Clear Creek Lake				✓	✓				
Corinth Lake	✓			✓	✓				
Cumberland Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Cumberland Lake tailwater							✓	✓	
Dale Hollow Lake	✓	✓	✓						
Dewey Lake				✓	✓	✓			
Elkhorn Creek	✓	✓							
Elmer Davis Lake	✓				✓				
Fagan Branch Lake				✓	✓				
Fishpond Lake	✓			✓			✓		
Fishtrap Lake/tailwater	✓	✓		✓					
Grayson Lake				✓					
Green River		✓							✓
Green River Lake	✓		✓			✓			✓
Greenbo Lake	✓						✓		
Guist Creek Lake	✓								
Herrington Lake	✓			✓		✓			
Kentucky Lake/tailwater	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Kentucky River									✓
Kincaid Lake	✓								
Kingfisher Lake									
Lake Carnico	✓								
Lake Linville	✓		✓	✓					
Lake Malone	✓								
Lake Reba				✓	✓				
Lake Wilgreen	✓								
Laurel River Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Marion County Lake				✓	✓				
Martin's Fork Lake									
Mauzy Lake	✓								
McNeely Lake	✓			✓	✓				
Metcalfe County Lake	✓								
Mill Creek Lake (Monroe Co.)									
Mill Creek Lake (Powell/Wolfe Co.)	✓						✓		
Nolin River Lake	✓								
Ohio River									
Paintsville Lake/tailwater							✓		
Panbowl Lake				✓	✓				
Pennyrile Lake									
Rebel Trace Lake					✓				
Rough River Lake	✓					✓			
Shanty Hollow Lake				✓					
Smoky Valley Lake									
Spurlington Lake	✓			✓					
Taylorsville Lake	✓			✓					
Three Springs Lake							✓		
Washburn Lake									
West Fork Drakes Reservoir				✓	✓				
Wood Creek Lake	✓								
Yatesville Lake	✓			✓					

** Additional species can be found on following page.

Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

(Summary of lakes forecasting good or excellent fishing for each species listed)

Water body	Striped bass	Hybrid striped bass	White bass	Walleye	Sauger	Channel catfish	Blue catfish	Flathead catfish
Barkley Lake/tailwater	✓					✓	✓	
Barren River				✓	✓			
Barren River Lake		✓				✓		✓
Beaver Lake						✓		
Bert Combs Lake						✓		
Beshear Lake						✓		
Beulah Lake						✓		
Boltz Lake								
Briggs Lake						✓		
Buckhorn Lake/tailwater						✓		✓
Bullock Pen Lake						✓		
Carpenter Lake						✓		
Carr Creek Lake				✓				
Cave Run Lake			✓			✓		
Cedar Creek Lake						✓		
Clear Creek Lake								
Corinth Lake						✓		
Cumberland Lake	✓					✓		
Cumberland Lake tailwater	✓							
Dale Hollow Lake								
Dewey Lake			✓			✓		✓
Elkhorn Creek						✓		
Elmer Davis Lake						✓		
Fagan Branch Lake						✓		
Fishpond Lake								
Fishtrap Lake/tailwater		✓				✓		✓
Grayson Lake						✓		✓
Green River	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Green River Lake						✓		
Greenbo Lake						✓		
Guist Creek Lake						✓		
Herrington Lake		✓	✓					✓
Kentucky Lake/tailwater						✓	✓	
Kentucky River			✓		✓			
Kincaid Lake						✓		
Kingfisher Lake						✓		
Lake Carnico								
Lake Linville						✓		
Lake Malone								
Lake Reba						✓		
Lake Wilgreen								
Laurel River Lake				✓				
Marion County Lake						✓		
Martin's Fork Lake						✓		
Mauzy Lake						✓		
McNeely Lake								
Metcalfe County Lake								
Mill Creek Lake (Monroe Co.)								
Mill Creek Lake (Powell/Wolfe Co.)						✓		
Nolin River Lake			✓			✓		✓
Ohio River		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Paintsville Lake/tailwater								
Panbowl Lake						✓		
Pennyrile Lake						✓		
Rebel Trace Lake								
Rough River Lake		✓				✓		
Shanty Hollow Lake								
Smoky Valley Lake						✓		
Spurlington Lake						✓		
Taylorsville Lake						✓	✓	
Three Springs Lake						✓		
Washburn Lake						✓		
West Fork Drakes Reservoir						✓		
Wood Creek Lake						✓		
Yatesville Lake						✓		